

Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report – April 2009

The State Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on April 14th at Mt. Abraham Union High School, Bristol.

Annual Student Recognition Ceremony –

The State Board hosted its fourth student recognition ceremony during which students from around the state were honored for their academic and leadership excellence. Board member Tess Savage emceed the program; Student Recognition Committee chair Kathy Larsen, assisted by Commissioner Armando Vilaseca and Chair Tom James, presented certificates to the more than 30 students present. The complete list of honorees can be seen at: http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/educ_student_recognition.pdf.

ARRA Stimulus Update – Rae Ann Knopf, the department's ARRA coordinator, provided an update to the Board on how these funds potentially impact Vermont schools and the Department of Education. There are two sources of funding under this program: Education Stabilization fund (Vermont share = \$77.2 M), and the Government Services Fund (Vermont share = \$17.2 M). Stabilization funds are awarded to help stabilize State and local budgets in order to maximize and avoid reductions in education and other essential services, in exchange for the State's commitment to advance essential education reform in four areas:

1. Making improvements in teacher effectiveness and the equitable distribution of qualified teachers for all students, particularly those in most need;
2. Establishing Pre-K to college and career data systems that track progress and foster continuous improvement;
3. Maintaining progress toward rigorous college and career ready standards and high quality assessments that are valid and reliable for all students, including limited English proficient students and students with disabilities; and
4. Providing targeted intensive support and effective interventions for the lowest-performing schools.

Regularly updated information on ARRA can be found on the department's Web site at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html. Contact: Rae Ann Knopf, (802) 828-0555 or rae.knopf@state.vt.us.

Statewide Technology Plan Approved –

The Board voted to approve the Vermont Statewide Technology Plan, which requires schools/districts to have an approved local technology plan. An approved local technology plan serves two purposes: a vision for schools for planning purposes (such as budgeting, professional development and partnerships with community resources), and to enable schools to receive E-rate dollars (telecommunications reimbursement for schools) from the federal government. For additional information, contact Peter Drescher (peter.drescher@state.vt.us). To view the approved plan, see http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_edtech.html.

Education Transformation Update:

Vermont State Colleges' Dual Enrollment Program

Karrin Wilks, senior vice president, Vermont State Colleges, presented information on the VSC's dual enrollment program. Funded through Next Generation legislation, the Dual Enrollment program affords opportunities for Vermont high school students to enroll in college courses concurrently with their high school experience. Wilks provided the SBE with an overview of the program, purpose/goals of dual enrollment programs, efforts to expand dual enrollment in Vermont, challenges to expanding dual enrollment and some models to consider. Linkages with the current work of the Education Transformation Policy Commission were also discussed. For additional information on dual enrollment, contact Karrin Wilks (karrin.wilks@vsc.edu).

From the Department

ARRA: Message to Business Managers

Regarding Funds Tracking – The stimulus funding under ARRA will require stringent tracking, accountability, monitoring and reporting. The department will be contacting business managers as information becomes available on specific fiscal and reporting

requirements. For now, these are the items of importance and timeliness:

- 1) ARRA funds MUST be tracked separately. New revenue and expenditure accounts must be created to accomplish this.
- 2) ARRA federal awards have unique CFDA numbers, and therefore, will have new Revenue Codes assigned. These will be sent out soon.
- 3) DUNS numbers and CCR Registration. In order to receive ARRA funds, all subgrantees and subcontractors are required to have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number and be registered at Central Contractor Registration (CCR). To view the complete memo, visit: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html#coding
Contact: Kathy Flanagan at (802) 828-0482 or kathy.flanagan@state.vt.us.

Revised Licensing Regulations – The Educator Licensing Regulations have been revised in three areas:

- The *ethics code* portion speaks to the essential qualities of the competent and caring educator, including moral integrity, humane attitudes, reflective practice and a sound understanding of academic content and pedagogy. The public vests educators with trust and responsibility for educating the children of Vermont. Fulfilling this charge requires educators to demonstrate the highest standards of professional conduct. The statement of fundamental principles, which all Vermont educators should follow, includes an enumeration of examples of unprofessional conduct which could subject an educator to licensing action;
- The *technical corrections* portion of these regulations clarifies rules relating to Career and Technical Education endorsements; and
- The *Praxis I waiver requirements* put into regulation the current Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators policies relating to exempting from Praxis I, individuals with disabilities who meet other conditions.

View a summary of the revisions to the Licensing Regulations and the complete regulations at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/licensing/regulations_endorsements.html#regulations.

Contact: Bob Gross at (802) 828-6544 or bob.gross@state.vt.us.

May 2009 NECAP Science Test: Registration Update – *Registration* for high school students to take the May 2009 NECAP Science Test using the Nimble Tools on-line accommodations system *has been extended to May 1, 2009*. Last month all Vermont high school principals were mailed detailed information on Nimble Tools, as well as a password for access to the on-line registration. For help or additional information, please contact Jennifer Higgins at jen@nimbletools.com, or call the Nimble Tools Help Line at (617) 340-2176. For more information visit: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_assessment/necap.html#nimble. Contact: Michael Hock at (802) 828-3115 or michael.hock@state.vt.us.

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For information on Department of Education sponsored events beginning May 2009, visit: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>. The calendar is updated regularly.

For more information on the Vermont State Board of Education, visit: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html>.

To view approved minutes of SBE meetings: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#approved>

To view State Board of Education's Monthly Reports: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly_reports

2009 State Board of Education Meeting Dates: May 19; June 22-23

